Burdwan-Jhajha, Burdwan-Dhanbad and Asansol-Kharagpur Sections as Suburban Railways

533. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY:

SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering the proposal to declare (i) Burdwan-Jhajha; (ii) Burdwan-Dhanbad and (iii) Asansol-Kharagpur sections of Eastern Railway and South-East Railway respectively as suburban railways; and

(b) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Telecommunication services in Tripura

534. SHRI NARAYAN KAR:

SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the deteriorating telecommunication services in Tripura;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to improve the services in Tripura?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Telecommunication services in Tripura have not deteriorated.

(b) Question Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) However, for further improvement of telecommunication services in Tripura following important projects have been completed/planned:-

(1) 4 Satellite earth stations have been installed at Belonia, Kamalpur, Khowai and Subroom.

(2) National subscriber dialling/ International subscriber dialling have been introduced at Agartala in September, 1987.

(3) 5 New multi access radio relay systems including one STD PCo at Agartala Airport have been commissioned.

(4) Overhead wires of trunk circuits to various sub-divisional and block headquarters have been planned to be replaced by VHF and UHF systems.

(5) Point to Point STD to Radha-Kishorpur, Kailashahar and Dharam-pur from Agartala have been planned to be introduced.

(6) Agartala exchange will be expanded from 3000 lines to 3600 lines.

(7) Maunal exchange at Kailashahar will be replaced by automatic one.

(8) It has also been planned to instal some more long distance public telephones and small automatic exchanges.

Transfer of teachers in Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan

535. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of teachers were recruited by the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan in 1984 for being posted specifically in the North-Eastern Region; and

(b) if so, in what circumstances?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Teachers were recruited specifically for posting in the North Eastern Region by the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan on condition that they would not be transferred outside the region under any circumstances This condition was laid down in the interest of adequately staffing the Vidyalayas in this region where there was a shortage of teachers and many teachers after receiving the appointment letters did not join. Besides, many of those who joined immediately submitted representations for transfer to other regions.

Foreign exchange earned by I.T.D.C.

536. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what is the quantum of foreign exchange earned by the I.T.D.C. Hotels during the last three years;

(b) whether it is a fact that foreign exchange of ITDC Hotels is declining as compared to hotels in the Private Sectors;

(c) if so, what are the reasons in this regard; and

(d) what steps are being taken by the Government to boost foreign exchange by the ITDC hotels during the next two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) The information is as folows:

Year	Rs. in lakhs
1984-85	446.14
1985-86	563.72
1986-87	763.18

(b) and (c) There are a variety of factors to be taken into consideration for computing foreign exchange earnings of ITDC Hotels vis-a-vis hotels in private sector. The foreign ex change earnings of ITDC hotels as a whole have however increased year after year as is indicated in reply to part (a) of the Question.

(d) Various steps taken by ITDC to boost the foreign exchange earnings of their hotels are as under:—

(i) marketing and reservation tieups with Odner Hotel Representatives Hong Kong and Golden Tulip Worldwide Hotels, Japan;

(ii) promotion of ITDC properties in the overseas market through participation in Travel Trade Forums;

(iii) signing of special rate contracts with foreign tour operators and offering incentives on volume based business to encourage group movement;

(iv) Organising sales blitz in various countries to help establish personal contract with major tour operators; travel agents to promote traffic to India.

Modernisation of railways

537. SHRI KALPNATH RAI:

SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether railways have drawn up any prespective plans for their modernisation for completion by the turn of the present century; and

(b) if so, the details of the same and the funds allocated for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.